WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
17 SEP 1958

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

HEALTH

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

of the

CWMBRAN URBAN DISTRICT

For the year 1957

by

EVELYN D. OWEN
M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

including the

REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. Chas. Price & Sons Ltd., Cwmbran, Mon.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the Year Ending 31st December, 1957

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1957, as the Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health and includes the Report of the Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	5,850
Registrar General's estimate of Resident population mid-1957	19,220
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1957) according to the Rate Books	5,993
Total Rateable Value 1/4/57	£163,404
Sum represented by penny rate	£607

Once again there has been an increase in the population of roughly one thousand during the year, from 18,260 in 1956, to 19,220 in 1957. The estimated population for the four previous years was :—

13,460 in 1952
14,410 in 1953
15,630 in 1954
and 17,100 in 1955

As might be expected in a district where a new town is being built, and the incoming population is composed mainly of young

people, the birth rate was considerably higher than the birth rate either for the County as a whole or for England and Wales, as will be seen from the tables which follow

The comparability factor for births given by the Registrar General and used in the calculations was 0·82.

The crude death rate was below that for the County generally and for the Country at large, but the adjusted death rate, using the given comparability factor of 1·39 was above the figures of Monmouthshire, and of England and Wales.

There was no maternal mortality, and the infant mortality was low, but the stillbirth rate was high. If the infant mortality and stillbirth rates are taken together, the wastage is found to be not so great as in either Monmouthshire, or England and Wales.

As is usual, most deaths were due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, with cancer coming next, but a long way behind. Three deaths were due to cancer of the lungs, all males, and no death was caused by leukaemia.

The Development Corporation continued building in the Town Centre, but most of their activities in this year were outside the Cwmbran Urban District in Croesyceiliog and Llan-yr-Afon.

The new Infants and Junior School at Oakfield was completed early in the year so that the school population was at last accommodated in school buildings instead of in various halls and rooms scattered over the district.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	250	193	443
Illegitimate	7	7	14
Total	257	200	457
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Resident Population			23·78
Adjusted Rate ,, ,, ,, ...			19·50
Birth Rate in Monmouthshire			17·07
Birth Rate in England and Wales			16·10

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Still Births.			
Legitimate	10	6	16
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	10	6	16
Rate per 1,000 Resident Population			0·83
Still Birth Rate in Monmouthshire			0·51
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births			33·83
In Monmouthshire		....	29·55
In England and Wales		....	22·40

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths	104	90	194
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Resident Population			10·09
Adjusted Death Rate ,, ,, ...			14·03
Death Rate in Monmouthshire . .			11·96
Death Rate in England and Wales			11·5

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths attributed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births			Nil
In Monmouthshire	....	....	0·7
In England and Wales		....	0·47

Infant Mortality	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)			
Legitimate ..	4	4	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total . .	4	4	8
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			17·50
In Monmouthshire		....	30·98
In England and Wales		....	23.0
Neo-natal (under 4 weeks of age) Deaths			
Legitimate ..	4	2	6
Illegitimate .	—	—	—
Total	4	2	6
Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births			13·12
In Monmouthshire		....	21·97
In England and Wales		....	16·5

AGES AND CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

CAUSE OF DEATH	UNDER 4 WKS.	4 WKS/1 YR.
Atelectasis	—	—
Prematurity	3	—
Bronchitis	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1
Congenital Heart Disease	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—
Gastro Enteritis	1	—
Accident	—	—
Other Causes	1	—
	6	2

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	M	F	TOTAL
Tuberculosis *(Respiratory)*	3	1	4
Tuberculosis (*other forms*)	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease —	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Cancer *(including lungs and bronchi, 3 males)*	15	13	28
Leukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	22	37
Coronary Disease, Angina	16	9	25
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	—	2
Other Heart and Circulatory Diseases	23	25	48
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	2	1	3
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	2	2
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	13	10	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All Other Accidents	2	2	4
Violence	—	—	—
Total	104	90	194

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers. The Staff consisted of:—

(a) The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Caerleon Urban District Council and Medical Officerfor the No. 8 Health Area of the Council, *and,*

(b) The Public Health Inspector, Mr. O. J. R. Pruden, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Committees

The Committees concerned with Public Health matters are :—

(a) The Public Health Committee, *and,*

(b) The Waterworks Committee

Each of these Committees is composed of all the members of the Council sitting under its own Chairman. Between them, they deal with all matters of public health with the exception of housing, which is dealt with by the Council direct.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) The Water Supply is gathered from mountain streams and springs into your own reservoir at Blaen Bran augmented by bulk supplies from Newport Corporation. Both supplies are filtered, chemically treated and chlorinated before distribution, and on bacteriological examination have been found to be satisfactory. The Council is now dependant on the bulk water supplies from Newport Corporation for over half its total water supply.

All houses within the built-up area are provided with a piped water supply, but there still remain isolated houses in the rural parts of the area which derive their water supply from wells, etc. Samples have been taken and subjected to bacteriological examination.

During the year an adequate water supply was maintained for the whole district and it was not necessary to bring into force any curtailment of supplies. Extensive use was made of the Grange Road Emergency Pumping Supply, but it was not found necessary to use the Cwmbran Colliery Adit Supply.

The extensions to the Filter House, Upper Cwmbran, and the construction of the 1½ million gallon Service Reservoir at the Tram Road, Upper Cwmbran, were completed during the year and the additional filter and storage capacity have made possible a fuller use of the Blaen Bran Supply. Work commenced in June 1957 on the construction of the Grange Road Waterworks Pumping Station.

This station will enable water from the Newport Bulk Supply to be pumped to the new 1½ million gallon Service Reservoir and thence distributed to all parts of the District.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** Schemes are in course of preparation for the sewering of The Square, Upper Cwmbran, and also for the provision of a new relief sewer to alleviate flooding in the vicinity of "The Meads," Newport Road, Llantarnam.

(iii) **Rivers and Streams** The Afon Llwyd remains very heavily polluted by industrial and trade wastes and detracts considerably from the amenities of the District.

(iv) **Refuse Collection** The Council carry out the collection of house and trade refuse by direct labour, using modern covered specially designed vehicles. Disposal during the year was carried out by means of controlled tipping in the derelict clay holes at Llantarnam Road, Cwmbran. Tip attendants are employed in spreading and covering each day's collection with surplus soil, slag and ashes. Germicidal tip dressings are used extensively.

Smoke Abatement

One complaint of a smoke nuisance was received and was being investigated at the end of the year.

Rodent Control

The Council employ a full time rodent operator for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year, in February and September.

Number of Inspections carried out 434

Infested premises treated 277

No premises were made structurally rat proof nor were any prosecutions taken during the year

Swimming Baths

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths within the area.

Schools

All school canteens were inspected during the year. The attention of the Monmouthshire Education Committee was drawn to the contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations in certain cases.

Factories and Bakehouses

113 inspections of factories and bakehouses were carried out during the year.

Sanitary defects found ...	30
Informal Notices served	30
Defects remedied	26
Want of Cleanliness	13
Defective Closet Accomodation	7

In each case Informal Notices were complied with, and it was found that Statutory action was not necessary.

HOUSING

On September 1st, the Housing Act, 1957, came into force. This act consolidated all the various enactments dealing with housing (with the exception of financial provisions).

INFORMAL ACTION

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action. 36

STATUTORY ACTION

(a) Under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936 (Jan. 1st - Aug. 31st,) and **under Sections 9, 10, Housing Act, 1957** (Sept. 1st. - Dec. 31st).

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices requiring repairs ~~was~~ served 20

(ii) No. of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of notices *(a)* By owners 20

(b) By L. A. in default .... —

(b) Under Sections 92, 93, Public Health Act, 1936

(i) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices requiring abatement of nuisance were served.... 20

(ii) No. of dwelling houses in which nuisances were abated as a result of notices

(*a*) By owners 20

(*b*) By Local Authority in default .... —

(c) Under Sections 11 Housing Act, 1936 (1st Jan. - 3Ist Aug. and Section 17 Housing Act 1957 (1st Sept, - 31st Dec.)

(*i*) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which a demolition order was made .... —

(*ii*) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders —

(*iii*) Houses demolished other than in (ii) 1

(d) **Under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936 and Section 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1953, (1st Jan.-31st Aug. 31st) and under Section 17, Housing Act. 1957 (1st Sept, - 31st Dec.)**

Houses closed 5

(e) **Rent Act, 1957**

Under this Act which came into force on July 7th, the Local Authority were given the power to issue Certificates of Disrepair in cases where the rents of dwelling houses in need of repair were increased.

Five applications for certificates were received during the year, but owing to the rather lengthy procedure involved only one certificate was actually issued before 31st December.

Slum Clearance Programme.

Work during the year was confined mainly to the re-housing of Court Farm Estate tenants and the demolition of the temporary Bungalows. Only one other house, No. 11, Hilltop, was demolished.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

No. of premises registered under

(i) **Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—**

Manufacture of Sausages	....	....	3
Sale of Ice Cream	....	....	17

(ii) **Milk and Dairies Regulations**

Retailers (T.T.)	....	....	4
Retailers (Past. & Ster'd)	....	....	10
Producer/Retailers (T.T.)	....	....	8
Supplementary Licences	....	....	6

Regular inspections of the 108 Foodshops and Cafes, 23 Public Houses and 8 Licensed Clubs have been made.

During the year the following foodstuffs have been voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption, and have been destroyed —

		TINS	LBS
Milk Products			
Cheese			17½
Meat Products			
Stewed Steak	....	7	5
Steak & Kidney Pie	....	1	1
Ox Tongue	....	3	18
Sausages	....	—	43
Jellied Veal	....	11	66
Tongue	..	3	18
Corned Beef	....	43	233
Cooked Ham	....	3	2
Luncheon Meat	....	15	11
Chopped Pork	....	3	12
Fish Products			
Crab	....	3	1½
Salmon	....	3	2¼
Tinned Vegetables			
Baked Beans	....	2	1½
Peas	....	1	1
Tomatoes	....	16	12
Mushroom Soup	....	1	15 *ozs.*
Tinned Fruit			
Pineapples	....	1	19 *ozs.*
Peaches	....	3	3
Pears	....	1	2
Cherries	....	14	7
Blackcurrants		9	4½
Raspberries	....	9	4½
Plums	...	4	3
Apricots	....	15	32

Periodic inspections of Works Canteens have been made with respect to general cleanliness and hygiene :—

Want of Cleanliness	....	....	8
Rat Infestation	....	...	12
Sanitary Defects	...	....	10
Disrepair	....	....	4

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles and Whoopng Cough

There was a small outbreak of whooping cough early in the year, and measles was prevalent in the Spring.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Three notifications were received during the year. 2 children and 1 adult. All were paralytic cases and were admitted to hospital for treatment. There were no deaths.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (*other than Tuberculosis*) DURING 1957.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO HOSP.	TOTAL DEATHS
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	42	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	199	—	—
Enteric Fever (*including paratyphoid*)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	~~3~~ 3	~~3~~ —

DISEASE	AGE GROUPS									
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10-14	15—24	25+	Age Unknown
1. Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Whooping Cough	4	2	8	9	7	11	—	—	—	1
3. Measles	8	23	24	18	35	84	2	1	1	—
4. Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—

Vaccination and Immunisation

These services are provided by the County Council at the Infant Welfare Clinics and also by the General Practitioners in the area. During the year the combined prophylaxis for diphtheria and whooping cough was changed to the use of separate agents for the prevention of these diseases. Prophylactic treatment for poliomyelitis was given to children in the appropriate age groups

306 children completed the diphtheria immunisation course, 303 being under 5 years of age, and 3 being 5 - 14 years; 15 children in addition received boosting doses.

256 people were vaccinated against smallpox, 235 being children under 15 years of age; 42 others were re-vaccinated, 30 of these being over 15 years of age.

Tuberculosis (*New cases and Mortality during 1957*)

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES Respiratory		NEW CASES Non-Respiratory		DEATHS Respiratory		DEATHS Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—64	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	-	2	—	—	—
	2	3	—	—	3	1	—	—

Only 5 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year, just half the number of the previous year. There were, however, 8 inward transfers from other areas, in addition.

4 deaths occurred, 2 of which were in the upper age group.

HOUSING

	Temporary	Permanent
No. separate dwellings owned by Local Authority at 31st Dec., 1957.	146	1506
No. of Local Authority dwellings in course of erection at 31st Dec., 1957	—	20
No. of houses for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced at 31st Dec., 1957	—	59

Cwmbran Development Corporation

Under construction 31st Dec., 1957 :-			Total
Houses	1 bedroom	—	
	2 bedroom	50	
	3 bedroom	88	
	4 bedroom	19	
			157
Flats	1 bedroom	40	
	2 bedroom	25	
	3 bedroom	6	71
			228

Total number of dwellings completed at 31st Dec., 1957 :-

Houses	....	....	1448	
Flats	....	....	82	
				1530
Shops	....	....	....	14

New dwellings completed during the year :-

By Local Authority	....	31	
By Private Enterprise	....	10	
By Development Corporation		101	
			142

The Council's housing programme provided 31 new houses during the year under review. This is considerably less than last year due to the completion of the non-traditional Easi-form contracts in that year; also there was a substantial number of brick dwellings in an advanced state of construction at the end of the year. All the dwellings provided were of the traditional two bedroomed two storey type, mainly built on the Court Farm Estate to accommodate families who formerly occupied the asbestos cement huts built during the war and which have now been condemned. The provision of accommodation for the re-housing of persons on the Court Farm Estate to enable the remaining huts to be demolished has absorbed almost the whole of the house building resources during the year.

The only exception to this was the scheme for building Old Age Pensioners bungalows with Warden's House and Community Lounge at Two Locks Estate. This scheme was nearly completed by the end of the year and was the first of its kind to be built in the country. It provides for 10 self-contained bungalows for Old Age Pensioners together with a Warden's House and a Common Room to be furnished and equipped to provide a meeting place for social occasions. The duties of the Warden are to assist the Old Age Pensioners in time of need and to provide a background of concern and helpful service in normal times, together with the running and cleaning of the Communal Rooms. The scheme is aimed at providing homes for old people which avoid an institutional atmosphere on the one hand and yet provide some care and help which is not normally arranged for in old peoples dwellings provided by housing authorities generally. The Old Age Pensioner still retains his independence and appreciates the fact that he still retains his own home, and the key to the door.

A contract was let during the year for the construction of 21 - two bedroomed non-traditional Reema houses on the Maendy Site, together with 7 - three bedroomed four person houses of the same type. This form of construction is new to this area, its external walls consisting of large pre-cast concrete panels which are factory made and transported to the site.

Plans for the construction of 31 - two bedroomed traditional houses and 12 - single bedroomed flats at Lightwood Site, Oakfield Park, (for young married couples), were approved during the year. The constructional work for the culverting of the Cwmnant Brook and the construction of the roads has been approved and is now under way.

In order to accommodate small families occupying huts at Court Farm Estate, the Council approved a scheme for building 18 single bedroomed flats on this Estate. This together with the 40 - three bedroomed houses now under construction forms the second stage in the re-development of this site. A third and last stage is now being planned to complete the reconstruction scheme. An effort has been made to improve the layout of this Estate and to provide amenities equal to any in the district, whilst retaining to a large extent the existing roads and sewers. As on other Estates a high standard of external appearance has been adhered to and the large public greens and judicious tree planting will add to the amenities of the site.

My thanks are due to the Officers of the Council and others who have provided me with material for this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EVELYN D. OWEN.